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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

ARROW FEATHERING IN SOUTH AMERICA.

AN excellent study of this subject by Herman Meyer has been translated and published in the Smithsonian Report for 1896 (just issued). Different methods of feathering, seven in number, are shown to have prevailed among the native tribes, each occupying its own area and generally embracing tribes of contrasted affinities in other respects. A map is added indicating these areas. The explanation of this is that many tribes first learned the use of the bow from their neighbors, but that there were as many centers of its invention as there were modes of feathering. At least, this is the simplest explanation, and it is one supported by language, as we find, in the Catoquina, for instance, the words for bow and arrow are both Tupi, and their people have the Tupi plan of feathering. The paper is valuable for other suggestions on native culture.

A STUDY OF THE LIPS.

WE are all familiar with the teaching of the physiognomists that thick lips indicate a sensual disposition, and delicate, finely formed lips coincide with a certain spirituality, firmness and elevation of character. Dr. A. Bloch, in a thorough study of the lips from an anthropological point of view, believes that all such indications are imaginary. The form, size and color of these organs belong to race distinctions quite as much as the shape and dimensions of the nose. In fact, they are often in correlation. The pigmentation is notably different in the various sub-species of man, varying from a delicate rose to a dark brown. In hybridity, like many other traits, the lips of one or the other parent may reappear in full character in the child. Really thick lips never occur, except as an anomaly, in the white race. (*Bull. Soc. Anthropologie de Paris*, 1898; Fasc. 3.)

PHYSIOLOGY OF CRIMINALS.

AN eminent criminal lawyer once told me that the criminals, as a rule, were better looking men than the 'gentlemen of the jury.' The assertion seemed jocose, but now comes the proof of it. Dr. J. Marty, a French criminologist, reports his examination of 4,000 delin-

quents in the French army. His results are curious. In height, in weight, in breast measure, in muscular power and in general condition these rascals averaged decidedly better than the well-behaved soldiers of the army!

But Dr. Marty is ready with an ingenious suggestion. Not that criminals are 'by nature' a finer lot physically than non-criminals, but the condition of criminal families is so much more wretched than respectable ones that only the uncommonly strong survive! Ingenious, but not quite satisfying. (*Centralblatt für Anthropologie*, Heft. 4.)

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

ENDOWMENT OF THE JENNER INSTITUTE.

WE announced in a recent issue a gift by Lord Iveagh of £250,000 for the endowment of the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine. Further details of this important gift are given by Lord Lister, Chairman of the Council, and Sir Henry E. Roscoe, Treasurer, in the following letter to the press:

We ask permission to announce in your columns a splendid offer in aid of scientific research which has been placed in our hands.

British and Irish men of science have long deplored the fact that the opportunities in this country for research directed to the prevention of disease are not equal to those possessed by foreign nations.

Lord Iveagh wishes to help in removing this reproach to our country, and, on the conditions named below, has offered the sum of £250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand pounds) for the purposes of the highest research in bacteriology and other forms of biology as bearing upon the causes, nature, prevention and treatment of disease.

He has proposed to the Council of the Jenner Institute (lately the British Institute) of Preventive Medicine—a body which includes leading men in medicine and allied sciences in the British Isles—that the donation shall be handed over to the Institute on condition that in future the control and management of the affairs of the Institute shall be placed in the hands of a new board of seven trustees—three of the seven to be chosen by the Council of the Institute, three by the donor, and one by the Council of the Royal Society.

The offer has been cordially accepted at a meeting of the Council.